

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 1, 2006  
AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 28, 2006

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1451**

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**Introduced by Senator Kehoe**

February 23, 2006

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An act to add Section 8588.15 to the Government Code, relating to public safety.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1451, as amended, Kehoe. Emergency preparedness, planning, and information.

Existing law provides for emergency services, as specified.

This bill would provide that the State Fire Marshal shall convene a permanent advisory committee, composed of representatives from specified groups, to make recommendations to the State Fire Marshal, the Legislature, and appropriate state and local agencies regarding preparedness, planning, procedures, and the provision of accessible information relating to the emergency evacuation of designated groups from public and private facilities and private residences during emergency or disaster situations. The bill would require the State Fire Marshal to develop and host training workshops, to prepare and disseminate brochures and other relevant materials, and to seek research funding to develop new technologies and information systems relating to the evacuation of the designated groups from public and private facilities and private residences during emergency and disaster situations. The bill would set forth legislative findings and declarations regarding the need for the bill and would state that it is the intent of the Legislature that the annual Budget Act shall

appropriate federal homeland security funds to the State Fire Marshal in order to implement the act.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) Recent emergencies, such as “9/11” and Hurricane Katrina,  
4 have underscored the need for government to have in place  
5 emergency disaster preparedness plans, procedures, and  
6 accessible information.

7 (b) Specifically, these disasters have demonstrated that  
8 emergency disaster preparedness plans, procedures, and  
9 accessible information have not been developed to serve the  
10 unique needs of those with physical, sensory, and cognitive  
11 disabilities; California is among those states that lack procedures  
12 to address the needs of those with disabilities, in evacuating  
13 public and private facilities and private residences during an  
14 emergency or disaster.

15 (c) The convening by the State Fire Marshal of a permanent  
16 advisory committee to provide the necessary input to the State  
17 Fire Marshal, the Governor’s Office of Emergency Service, other  
18 appropriate state and local agencies, and the Legislature  
19 regarding evacuation procedures, emergency disaster  
20 preparedness plans, and the provision of accessible information  
21 for the elderly, those who lack access to transportation, and those  
22 with disabilities during emergency and disaster situations will  
23 help solve this critical need.

24 SEC. 2. Section 8588.15 is added to the Government Code, to  
25 read:

26 8588.15. (a) The State Fire Marshal shall convene a  
27 permanent advisory committee on or before January 1, 2008, to  
28 make recommendations regarding preparedness, planning, and  
29 procedures relating to the emergency evacuation of the groups  
30 designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b),  
31 from public and private facilities and private residences during  
32 emergency and disaster situations; the committee shall also make  
33 recommendations regarding the providing of accessible

1 information regarding preparedness, planning, and procedures  
2 relating to the emergency evacuation of the groups designated in  
3 paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b) from public  
4 and private facilities and private residences during emergency  
5 and disaster situations. *Members of the advisory committee shall*  
6 *serve without compensation, but shall receive reimbursement for*  
7 *actual necessary travel expenses and the state-adopted per diem.*

8 (b) The advisory committee shall include representatives from  
9 each of the following groups:

- 10 (1) Persons with physical disabilities.
- 11 (2) Persons who are blind or visually impaired.
- 12 (3) Persons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- 13 (4) Persons with cognitive disabilities.
- 14 (5) Persons with developmental disabilities.
- 15 (6) Persons with learning disabilities.
- 16 (7) Local government.
- 17 (8) Appropriate state agencies.
- 18 (9) Fire officials.
- 19 (10) Researchers in emergency evacuation of groups specified  
20 in this subdivision from public or private facilities and private  
21 residences.

22 (11) Building owners of public or private facilities.

23 (c) (1) On or before January 1, 2009, and every two years  
24 thereafter, the committee shall provide recommendations to the  
25 State Fire Marshal, the Legislature, and appropriate state and  
26 local agencies regarding preparedness, planning, procedures, and  
27 provision of accessible information on the emergency evacuation  
28 of the groups designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of  
29 subdivision (b) from public and private facilities and private  
30 residences during emergency or disaster situations.

31 (2) The recommendations shall include, but shall not be  
32 limited to, proposed legislative and regulatory actions, and  
33 relevant research or technology design.

34 (3) The recommendations developed by the advisory  
35 committee shall be shared with the Governor's Office of  
36 Emergency Services for inclusion into the State Emergency  
37 Management System.

38 (d) (1) The State Fire Marshal, in consultation with the  
39 advisory committee, shall develop and host training workshops

1 on the following subjects as they relate in particular to the groups  
2 designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b):

3 (A) Emergency evacuation procedures for the effective and  
4 safe evacuation from public and private facilities and private  
5 residences.

6 (B) Emergency or disaster preparedness or planning.

7 (C) The provision of accessible information on preparedness,  
8 planning, and procedures relating to the emergency evacuation of  
9 the groups designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of  
10 subdivision (b) from public and private facilities and private  
11 residences during emergency and disaster situations.

12 (2) The State Fire Marshal shall prepare and disseminate  
13 brochures and other relevant materials on preparedness, planning,  
14 and procedures relating to the emergency evacuation of the  
15 groups designated in paragraphs (1) to (6), inclusive, of  
16 subdivision (b) from public and private facilities and private  
17 residences during emergency and disaster situations; the  
18 materials shall be available in accessible formats, including, but  
19 not limited to, Braille, large print, audio cassette tape, and  
20 electronic file.

21 (e) The State Fire Marshal shall seek research funding to  
22 develop new technologies and information systems that will  
23 assist in the evacuation of the groups designated in paragraphs  
24 (1) to (6), inclusive, of subdivision (b) from public and private  
25 facilities and private residences during emergency and disaster  
26 situations.

27 (f) It is the intent of the Legislature that the annual Budget Act  
28 shall appropriate federal homeland security funds to the State  
29 Fire Marshal in order to implement this section.